

**Atlanta Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2021
Zoom Meeting
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

❖ **Welcome and Introductions, Melissa Austin**

❖ **Lead Agency Updates**

- 2022 Data Standards, PIT/HIC, Alex Ukani
 - The 2022 data standards will see changes in formatting related to questions on race, ethnicity, gender, income & sources, well-being, youth education status, medical assistance, prescribed anti-retroviral, general health status, pregnancy status, financial assistance, and targeting criteria. More details will be provided at the Data Standards Training on September 28th at 2:00 EDT. This training is on the ICA training calendar. Register for the training [here](#). More information on HUD's data standards can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/33bwukp7>
 - The Atlanta CoC will be conducting an unsheltered point-in-time count this year. Volunteers will be needed, and we'll be using a different tool, but the process will remain the same overall.
- Data Quality Committee, Cayla Roby
 - The data quality committee is looking for members. This committee is a platform for providers to give feedback and provide input on CoC data quality, strategies, and requirements. The committee meets monthly; the total expected commitment is two to three hours per month. Please email performance@partnersforhome.org for more information and to join.
- LIFT Update, Melissa Austin
 - Highlights from the LIFT review include: 128 households housed between April and October 2020; 1207 new assessments were completed between October 2020 and February 2021; nine encampments were closed between November 2020, and February 2021; 530 households were moved in between December 20, 2020, and May 15, 2021; 170 referrals have been submitted between August 5, 2021, and September 13, 2021. Please see slides for more details.
 - Next steps include: queue analysis, EHV and Bridge to PSH, navigating to additional resources, projections, diversion/problem solving to housing, and outreach/encampment strategies.

❖ **HUD NOFO Update, Summer Duperon**

- The local competition is now open. Application materials are due October 8 for new and renewal applications. Detailed instructions, scoring tool, CoC policy, and more are now published on the Partners for HOME website (<https://partnersforhome.org/hud-funding/>). Please email Summer Duperon (sduperon@partnersforhome.org) with any questions.
- New applications for the NOFO are encouraged and priority applications are for new PSH and RRH and/or expansion projects of existing PSH or RRH. Agencies who have never received CoC funding who want to explore this, please reach out to Summer Duperon so there is enough time to complete the application and get through the process.
- The CoC Governing Council welcomes Robert Herrera as the new chair of the Rank & Review Committee.

❖ Presentations

- Shelters to Shutters, David Williams
 - Shelters to Shutters started in 2014 and is based out of Washington, D.C. They have recently expanded into four other cities (Nashville, Charlotte, Houston, and Atlanta). April Cline is Atlanta's Executive Director. The organization works with other nonprofits to place individuals experiencing situational homelessness into apartment complexes with jobs at those complexes. Individuals live on-site with discounted rental rates of up to 70%. Shelters to Shutters' goal is to go into five cities a year over the next five years. For more information, visit <http://shelterstoshutters.org/>
- Federal Strategic Plan Listening Session, Joe Savage
 - Joe Savage is the Regional Coordinator for USICH and can be reached at joe.savage@usich.gov
 - USICH coordinates the federal response to homelessness, creates partnerships between national, state, and local stakeholders, and believes housing should be a right, not a privilege.
 - USICH has determined key elements for ending homelessness including ambitious goals, committed leadership at all levels of government, availability of dedicated resources, a Housing First approach, and a clear vision and framework provided by criteria and benchmarks.
 - Mr. Savage asked questions regarding the federal strategic plan to end homelessness. Please see additional materials for an overview of these questions and a summary of the responses from CoC members.
 - Additional feedback can be submitted online at <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>

❖ Agency Updates/Round Robin

- Adam Goslin – Georgia State is launching an LGBTQ+ outreach program in the fall. If anyone wants to connect, an advisory board is being created. Please contact agoslin@gsu.edu for more details.
- Nasheedah Muhammad – TEAM Management 2000 is funded by SAMHSA to provide substance abuse treatment. Anyone interested in partnering with them should email n.muhammad@tm2kinc.org
- Raphael Holloway – Gateway Center is always receptive to recommendations for improvements. Please reach out to rholloway@gatewayctr.org to submit feedback.
- Katha Blackwell – PADV will be holding a candlelight vigil on October 14th at 6:30 PM. This event will acknowledge those who lost their lives to domestic violence over the past year and will be held at the Intercontinental Buckhead – Garden. More information and registration can be found here: <https://padv.org/events/candlelight-vigil/>

The next Atlanta CoC meeting will be held on November 9th, 2021, at 10:00 AM. Please submit any agenda items or presentations to Abby Bracewell (abracewell@partnersforhome.org) no later than November 1st.



PARTNERS FOR
HOME

LIFT Update

2020-2021





LIFT Review



COVID Response Starts **(3/15/2020)**



NcH Opens & Phase 1 of Housing Surge Begins **(4/1/2020)**



128 Households housed **(4/1/2020-10/31/2020)**



Unit Acquisition Begins **(9/15/2020)**



Comprehensive Outreach Strategy **(10/1/2020)**



Phase 2 of NcH & Housing Surge **(10/31/2020)**



1207 New Assessments **(10/1/2020-2/28/2021)**



LIFT Review



9 Encampment Closures **(11/2/2020-2/25/2021)**



Housing Surge Phase 2 Move Ins Begin-**(12/20/2020)**



530 Households Moved In **(12/20/2020-5/15/2021)**



Diversion Strategy Changed **(4/1/2021)**



Bridge to PSH Strategy **(8/1/2021)**



MOU Executed with AH for 202 EHV Vouchers **(8/4/2021)**



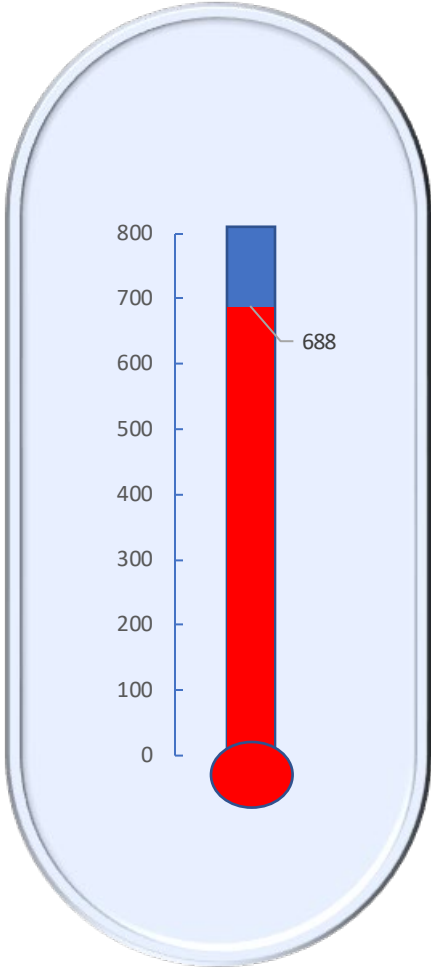
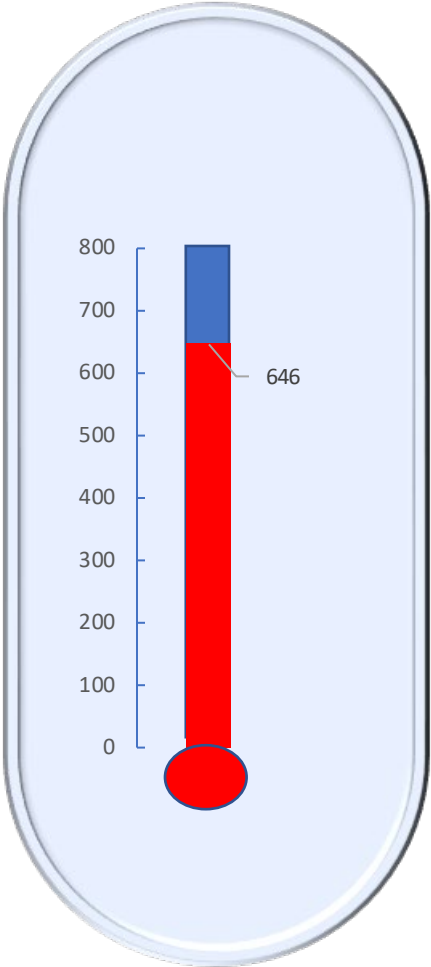
170 referrals submitted, 100 application packets completed, 28 vouchers issued, 39 scheduled briefings the week of 9/13/2021, 32 remaining households identified waiting for transmittal **(8/5/2021- 9/13/2021)**

Current Status

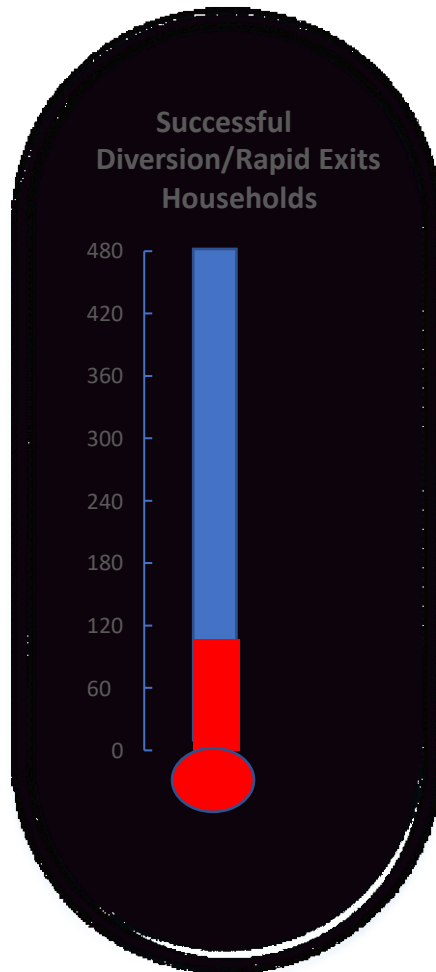
Housing Surge 2020-2021

Units Acquired and Available or Move In Occurred w/ Hold Fees

Moves to Permanent Housing



Diversion and Rapid Exit Summary

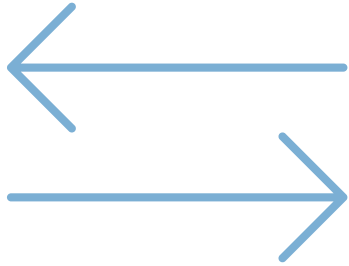


Diversion/Rapid Exit Summary	COUNT
Total Referrals in HMIS	567
Total Households Enrolled to Date	240
Currently Enrolled Households	87
Total Households Exited	153
Total Successful Diversion/Rapid Exits	105
Total Unsuccessful Diversions/Rapid Exits	48

Note: Total referrals in HMIS have been deduplicated by household.

Data current as of 9.13.2021-HMIS Data

Next Steps



Queue
Analysis



EHV and Bridge to
PSH



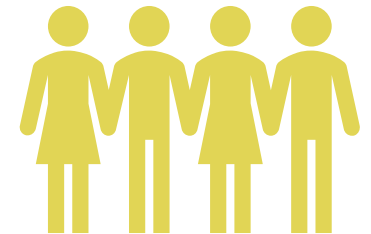
Navigating to
additional
resources



Projections



Diversion/Problem
Solving to Housing



Outreach/Encampment
Strategies

The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

USICH Listening Session





Joe N. Savage, Jr., PhD

Regional Coordinator (based in Philadelphia)

joe.savage@usich.gov



Agenda

- I. Welcome, USICH Introduction
- II. Previous Federal Strategic Plans
- III. Current State of Homelessness
- IV. Where Do We Go From Here?
- V. Key Questions for Consideration
- VI. Additional Input
- VII. Proposed Timeline



Welcome!

As you join, please change your display name to include your agency affiliation (e.g., Name-Organization) and introduce yourself in the chat by entering your:

- Name
- Role
- Agency/Program
- Community



USICH: Who We Are

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness:

- **Coordinates the federal response** to homelessness
- **Creates partnerships** between national, state, local, and private stakeholders; and helps them use federal resources efficiently and effectively
- **Believes housing should be a right** – not a privilege



USICH Federal Strategic Plan

With your help, our new plan will:

- **Center racial equity**
- Support **evidence-based practices**, such as Housing First
- Sustain or **build on what's working**
- **Reflect evolving practices**, including lessons learned from the pandemic
- Identify opportunities to **address areas in need of greater attention**
- Identify **opportunities to align strategies** with emerging federal, state, and local priorities



Previous Federal Strategic Plans

The HEARTH Act of 2009 directed USICH to submit a “National Strategic Plan to End Homelessness,” and to update it annually.

- ***Opening Doors*** (2010 – amended in 2012 and 2015)
- ***Home, Together*** (July 2018)
- ***Expanding the Toolbox*** (October 2020 – discontinued in February 2021)



Opening Doors: 2010–2018

5 Broad Themes:

- Increase Leadership, **Collaboration**, and Civic Engagement
- Increase **Access** to Stable and Affordable Housing
- Increase Economic **Security**
- Improve **Health** and Stability
- Retool the Homeless **Crisis Response System**



4 Subpopulation Goals:

- Finish the job of ending **chronic homelessness** by 2015
- Prevent and end **veteran homelessness** by 2015
- Prevent and end homelessness for **families, youth, and children** by 2020
- Set a path to end all types of homelessness



Home, Together: July 2018–October 2020

Rare, Brief, and One-Time

Areas of Focus:

- Increase **Affordable Housing**
- Strengthen **Prevention/Diversion**
- Create Solutions for **Unsheltered Homelessness**
- Tailor Strategies for **Rural Communities**
- Help People Find **Employment Success**
- Learn From People With **Lived Expertise**



Home, Together:
THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO
PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

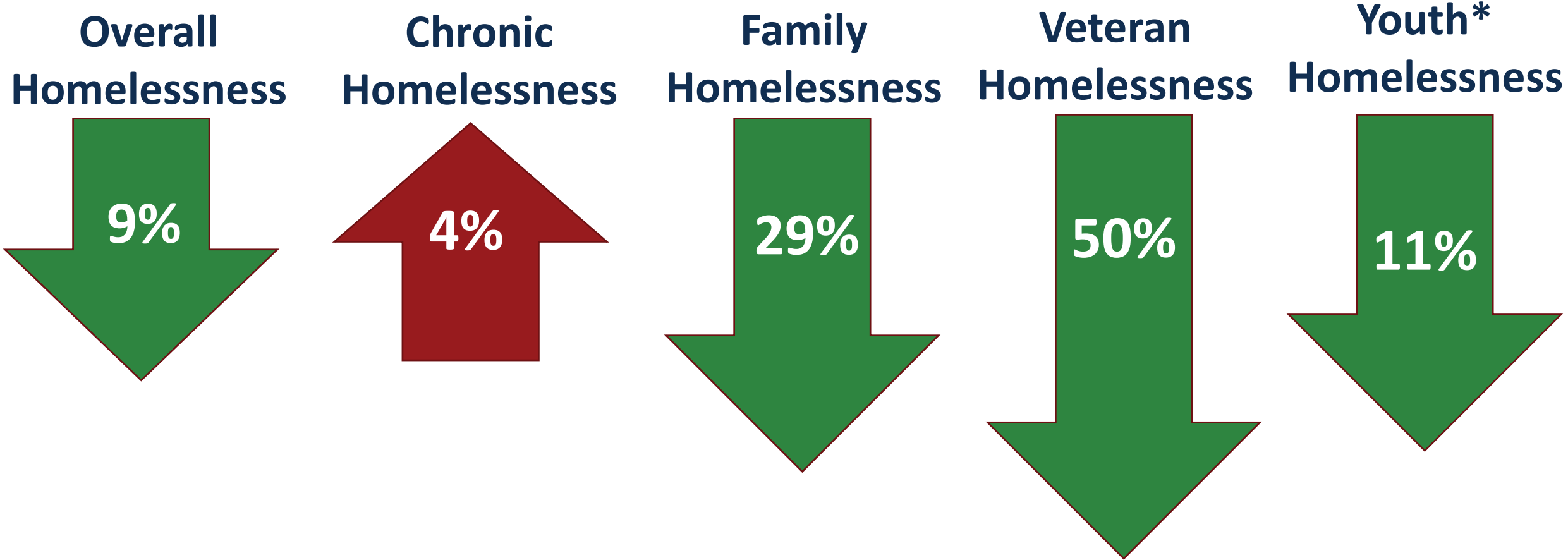
Subpopulation Goals:

End homelessness among:

- **People with disabilities** who experience chronic homelessness
- **Veterans**
- **Families with children**
- **Unaccompanied youth**
- All other individuals



Point-in-Time Counts, 2010-2020

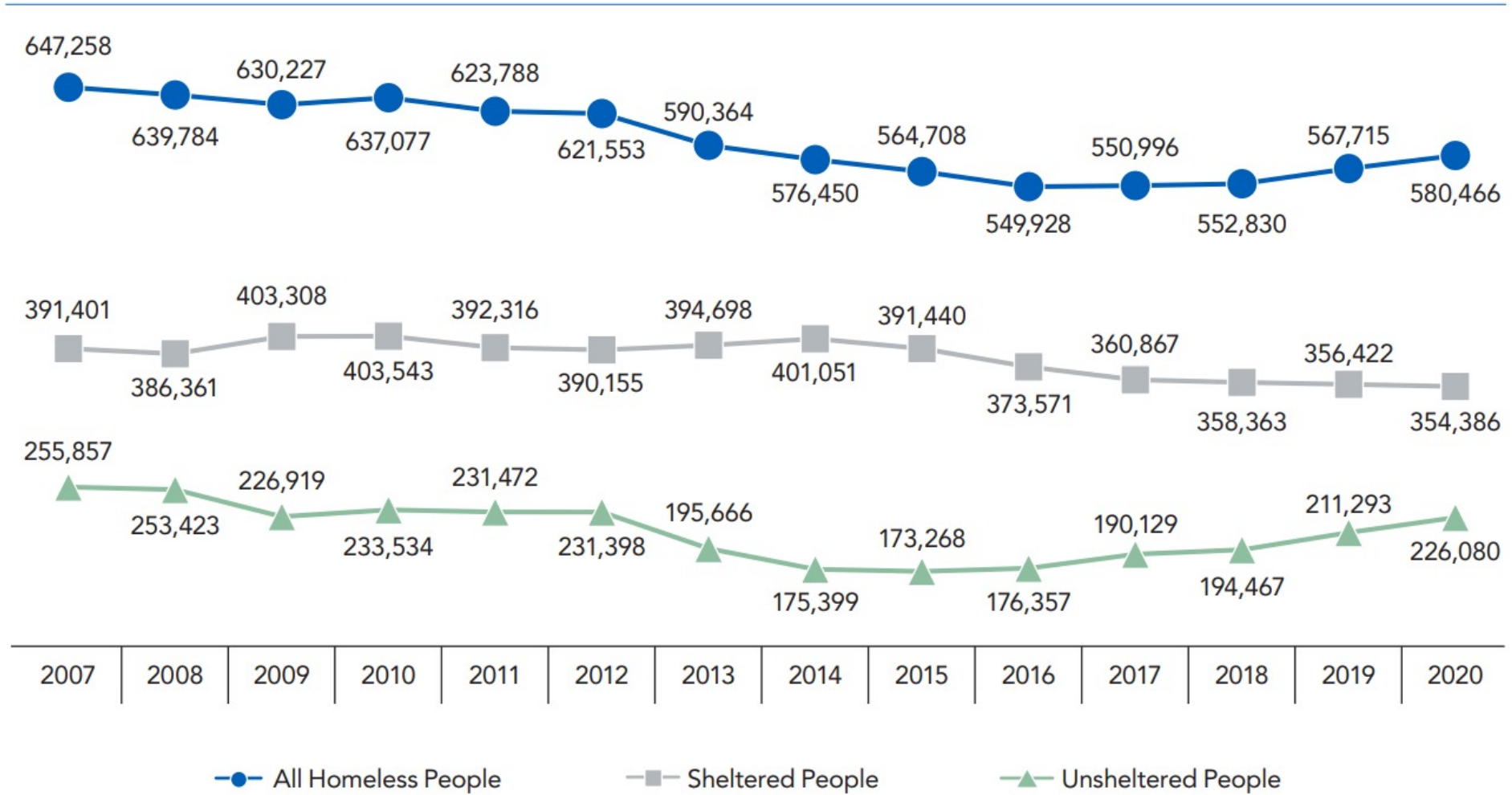


Source: The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

*2017-2020



EXHIBIT 1.1: PIT Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness By Sheltered Status, 2007–2020



Source: The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>



Key Elements for Ending Homelessness

- Ambitious goals
- Committed leadership at all levels of government
- Availability of dedicated resources
- Housing First approach
- Clear vision and framework provided by the [Criteria and Benchmarks](#)





Where Do We Go From Here?

Since our last plan, a lot has changed:

- Impacts of a pandemic and the critical link between housing and health
- Growing crisis of unsheltered homelessness
- Impacts of racial injustice and inequities and how they disproportionately affect the housing and health outcomes of people of color and vulnerable populations; and
- \$1.9 Trillion in the American Rescue Plan



Questions for Consideration

1. What should the federal government's top priorities be as they relate to preventing and ending homelessness?
2. What are the biggest barriers to ending homelessness in the communities your agency/organization serves?
3. How can the federal government more effectively center racial equity in its prevention of or response to homelessness, and how can it best support equitable distribution of/access to resources and equitable outcomes at the local level?



Questions for Consideration

4. What lessons have you learned during the COVID-19 pandemic about how the housing, health, and supportive services systems can best respond to people experiencing homelessness?
5. Both *Opening Doors* and *Home, Together* included a goal to end homelessness for all Americans, as well as goals to end homelessness among specific subpopulations. For the next plan:
 - Would it be helpful to set similar goals?
 - If so, should there be subpopulation-specific goals or just one goal to end all homelessness?
 - Should the goals include target dates?
6. Is there anything else you wish to add?



Additional Input

Visit [usich.gov/fsp](https://www.usich.gov/fsp)



Proposed Timeline

Timeline	Activity
August - November 2021	Gather stakeholder input
November 2021 – May 2022	Draft plan based on stakeholder/agency input
May 2022	Release new Federal Strategic Plan



Questions?



www.usich.gov

Federal Strategic Plan (FSP) Listening Session Questions for Consideration

1. What should the federal government's top priorities be as they relate to preventing and ending homelessness?

- More affordable/low-income housing
- Mental health services
- Domestic violence
- Workforce development partnerships
- Streamlining the funding process
- Addiction services
- Focusing on the correlation between severe persistent mental illness and homelessness
- Bridging the digital divide
- Reducing barriers
- Increased minimum wage
- Support for children leaving foster care
- Childcare programs
- Statutory response to law enforcement response to chronic homelessness and encampments
- Prevention programs and sustainability programs

2. What are the biggest barriers to ending homelessness in the communities your agency/organization serves?

- Affordable housing and transportation
- Mental health services
- Lack of job skills
- Client criminal background affecting housing placement
- Wraparound services with accountability
- Stigma
- Cost and time associated with developing housing
- Funding direct services (i.e., rental assistance), but not adequately funding the people who perform the services
- Effective and efficient sheltering options for families in transition
- Lack of bridge housing
- Legislating based on outdated stereotypes
- Substance dependence
- Lack of access to living wage employment
- Lack of coordinated benefits for individuals on SSI/SSDI
- Single family zoning
- Too many bureaucratic hurdles to navigate
- Lack of incentive for developers to build low-income housing
- Low hourly wages
- Lack of education
- Gentrification
- Match Requirements

3. How can the federal government more effectively center racial equity in its prevention of or response to homelessness, and how can it best support equitable distribution of/access to resources and equitable outcomes at the local level?

- Access to long-term permanent housing, specifically home ownership
- Invest in affordable rental housing and increase opportunities for POC home ownership
- Education (money management, home ownership, etc.)
- Better fund housing initiatives
- Relax credit requirements
- Assist in the development of tools to assess individuals and families for need/priority that will not cause disparity in and of themselves

- Move away from VI-SPDAT
- Mandate diversion and intake/discharge protocols at jails/prisons that require assessment, referral, and data collection
- Reparations
- Provide supportive services to families as soon as children enter school
- Allowing people with lived experience and POC with expertise in equity lead these development activities

4. What lessons have you learned during the COVID-19 pandemic about how the housing, health, and supportive services systems can best respond to people experiencing homelessness?

- Reduce the paperwork needed for people to receive financial assistance
- CARES funding is very effective. Funding should be expanded and reallocated
- Bridge housing works
- Improved collaboration between behavioral health services and homelessness services
- Waiving the matching funds

5. Both Opening Doors and Home, Together included a goal to end homelessness for all Americans, as well as goals to end homelessness among specific subpopulations. For the next plan, would it be helpful to set similar goals?

- Measurable goals are good, but funding that is super restrictive to only target populations can make intervention difficult